

Economic Development & Improvement Commission
Regular Meeting – Thursday December 10, 2009 – 12:00 Noon
Town Manager's Conference Room, First Floor, Town Hall

MINUTES

1. Call To Order – Chairman Greenblatt called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

2. Attendance and Quorum (6 members required)

Members in attendance: Chair Howard Greenblatt, Jonah Evenson, Chris Lyons, Doug Sacks, Betty Rosania, Brian Silver, Bill Knapp, Joan Hughes, Betty Standish, John Adamian, Rick Willard, Ken Rizzio and Jay Amoruso.

Members absent: Rene Ortega.

Also in attendance: Jeff Bridges – Town Manager; Phil Knecht – Planning and Zoning Commission Liaison; Ellyn Laramie - Chamber of Commerce; Peter Gillespie – Economic Development Manager/Town Planner and Denise Bradley – Assistant Planner.

3. Old Business
- a. Farmer's Market – Doug Sacks reported that there was a \$1,500 program surplus and that \$50 was used for an advertisement for the D.A.R.E. program business directory. He noted there 12 vendor responses to the electronic survey and detailed the results.
 - b. Business Visitation Program – Peter Gillespie noted that of all the EDIC initiatives, this fell the shortest and needs more effort in the New Year.
 - c. Shop Local – Meeting Date – Peter Gillespie noted that a workshop should be set up to collect ideas from local business owners about how we can best structure and implement this program. The Marketing Sub-Committee will discuss this at their meeting and confirm the event date.
 - d. Façade Improvement Application – 322 Silas Deane Highway – Lifeline Financial – Peter Gillespie distributed information regarding the request for additional funds. Ken Rizzio reported on the highlights of the sub-committee meeting and noted the concern over funding the rear entry as it is not visible or the paving. He added that no excavation work has been funded by the program in the past. Betty Rosania asked for an itemized breakdown. A discussion ensued and Chris Lyons made a motion to deny the request for additional funds. Doug Sacks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
 - e. Town Guide, Calendar and Business Directory - Peter Gillespie noted the need to start the process earlier this year and summarized the status of the project.

4. New Business
 - a. Salute To Business – December 8 – Peter Gillespie discussed some of the feedback he had received and noted there were 147 attendees.
 - b. Vacant Property Updates – Peter Gillespie reported on three properties and discussed the need for future planning and funding.
 - c. CIP/Budget 2010/2011 – Peter Gillespie reported that he will be requesting \$100,000 to replenish the façade loan program. A discussion ensued about including funding in an EDIC/Redevelopment bond package.
5. Reports -

Town Manager's Report - Jeff Bridges reported on the Town Council's request to have a joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Town Council Liaison's Report – Peter Gillespie noted that the new liaison is Stathis Manousos. Chris Lyons requested that if he cannot attend the EDIC meeting that a new liaison be assigned. Betty Rosania made a request to send a letter to Paul Montinieri thanking him for all his efforts.

Planning & Zoning Commission Liaison's Report – Phil Knecht reported on the highlights of the December 1st meeting.

Tourism Commission Liaison's Report – No report was given.

Redevelopment Agency Liaison Report – Peter Gillespie reported on the highlights of the last meeting.

Chamber of Commerce Liaison's Report – Ellyn Laramie from the Chamber was present.

Director of Planning and Economic Development's Report – Peter Gillespie discussed the highlights of the Monthly Economic Development Report.
6. Chairman's Report – Howard Greenblatt reiterated the need for enthusiasm, effort and commitment from the EDIC.
7. Sub-Committee Reports - Marketing and Communications – No additional report was given.

Financial Strategies – No additional report was given.
8. Minutes- November 12, 2009 Meeting – Betty Rosania made a motion to approve the minutes with corrections. Doug Sacks seconded the motion and all voted in favor.
9. Next Meeting – January 14, 2009
10. Correspondence
11. Adjournment – Betty Rosania made a motion to adjourn at 1:35 p.m. Rick Willard seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Bradley, Assistant Planner